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STATINTL

CIA Unwittingly Aids Viet Policy Critics

FROM CHICAGO DAILY NEWS

Washington — The Central Intelligence Agency may become the unwitting ally of its foremost Senate critic in his renewed attack on U. S. in Vietnam.

Sen. Fulbright (D-Ark.), who as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee has had few kind words for the spy agency, apparently has gained access to its highly critical analysis of the bombing of North Vietnam.

The CIA report may thus become Fulbright's chief weapon when his committee reopens its exploration of Vietnam policy with closed-door testimony last week by Secretary of State Rusk.

AFTER MUCH bitter protest over his exclusion, Fulbright was admitted informally to the Senate's watchdog subcommittee on the CIA.

Accordingly, he was present when CIA director Helms provided the subcommittee with a briefing on Vietnam in its first meeting of the year last Monday.

What the CIA does or does not tell Congress is one of the spy agency's best kept secrets. But with all the furor over the bombing, it is almost inconceivable that Fulbright was not required to testify on the issue.

The CIA's views on the bombings are scarcely a secret any more. Sen. Russell (D-Ga.) chairman of the CIA subcom-

mittee and the Senate's pre-eminent spy expert, inadvertently exposed the substance of the CIA's attitude.

He said classified reports indicate much of the bombing has been "wholly ineffective" and the "most expensive" any country has ever conducted.

Russell, a leading hawk, suggested the air raids be replaced or supplemented by Naval bombardment.

BUT FULBRIGHT, a leading dove, presumably will press Rusk and other Administration witnesses for a complete halt to the attacks on North Vietnam.

Fulbright has expressed agreement with United Nations secretary-General Thant that no peace negotiations are possible until the bombing stops.

The CIA analysis, reportedly based on aerial photographs and on-the-scene observation by agents, has also made the Administration vulnerable to the Hawks.

Meantime, advocates of the bombing in the Pentagon have been leaking stories about the new restraints that have been placed upon them. Their purpose is obvious: To arouse public opinion in favor of escalation.